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2012 Annual Report

April 2013

JPC Annual Report - 2012

President's Message, Suzanne Schnittman

Dear Friends: In 2012, JPC changed the lives of hundreds of men and women thereby reducing crime and increasing public safety in Rochester. JPC saves taxpayers \$55,000 for each year it keeps people out of jail, the annual cost of incarcerating someone. We also prevent the pain that the crime causes the victim, that incarceration causes the perpetrator, and the hurt that both impose on all the families.

Exceptional Results.

JPC is a small organization that tackles a big, difficult, and unpopular job: helping people re-start their lives after being incarcerated. We obtain exceptional results on a shoestring budget and do it with great respect for each individual. We help clients find decent housing they can afford, reconnect with family, deal with addictions, obtain training or education, acquire a job, correct errors in their criminal Rap Sheet to remove job barriers, secure official ID, and change their lives so much that courts award them certificates affirming they are "safe" to hire. In addition, we help them locate services from a myriad of agencies.

New Journey Project.

Under New Journey, JPC continues the efforts begun in January 2010 under the Women's Reentry Project, (US Department of Justice, Second Chance Grant). We have secured funding to provide some of the services: therapeutic groups, service coordination, and safe housing to mothers sentenced to the Monroe County Correctional Facility who are pregnant or have children, ages 12 and under. The Office of the Monroe County Sheriff has partnered with us to secure new Federal funding for support services for 23 moms who are currently enrolled in New Journey.

Housing.

Through a continuing JPC Shelter Plus program affiliated with Rochester Housing Authority, 11 single-bedroom apartments have been filled by homeless/disabled men or women returning from incarceration.

Client Survey Published.

The most current numbers that we have collected from local, state and federal correctional officials state that over 6,025 men and women returned to Monroe County after incarceration in local, state and federal facilities in 2011. During spring 2012, JPC conducted an in depth survey of 80 clients to analyze their needs and the barriers they face. Our survey revealed that a staggering 59% of respondents served by JPC that were released within the last 5 years, were unemployed, able to work and looking for work. In contrast, the February 2013 unemployment rate in the metropolitan area was 8.7%. The second most pressing concern was housing; a staggering 80% of those surveyed were homeless, 16% were living in shelters and 62% were staying with family and friends. The Office of the Monroe County Sheriff continues to work with us to address system wide issues such as obtaining identification for work.

Board Members.

We recruited two new board members and Advisory Board members with much needed expertise in the areas of legal, social media and management skills.

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New Location.

JPC has moved to Waring Baptist Church, 1921 Norton Street: JPC will be saving \$10,000 a year at the new location. JPC's Board members and many volunteers helped during the move. New phone and computer lines were installed free of charge. Waring Baptist Church made several building improvements including a new ceiling, free of charge. We signed a new copier lease and phone contract that resulted in reduced monthly fees.

Call to Action.

In our current economy, many individuals, religious groups, foundations and the government are cutting back their support to JPC. Ex-offenders need folks who will step up to the plate, contributing money and/or time. JPC makes a big difference. You can help by becoming a mentor, joining our public policy for change group, or writing a check. Consider putting JPC in your will or estate plan. To contribute or for more information, please contact Sue Porter, sporter@rocjpc.org.

Thank you, Suzanne Schnittman, President of the Board.

Director's Message, Susan Porter

Key Partnerships

A strengthened partnership with the Presbytery of Genesee Valley, Triple Play Grant Committee has allowed us to assist high risk mom's (and their children) leaving the Monroe County Correctional Facility. A significant grant was awarded to support JPC services for New Journey moms. Several clients have shared their stories at Presbytery meetings and staff is presenting to Presbyterian congregations about the significant ways in which mentors, wrap around services and Support Groups empower high risk moms to change.

A new partnership with Rochester Women's Giving Circle helps us to continue to serve women through the Women's Legal Action Project. On a cold January night John Busby, Esq., MCLAC and JPC staff presented a 6 month progress report to over 60 members of the Rochester Women's Giving Circle describing the big impact of the grant. Several vignettes about women who were able to return to work in their chosen professions were shared.

JPC continues to build upon our partnership with the Office of the Monroe County Sheriff. Regular meetings with the Sheriff's staff helped JPC provide counseling to New Journey moms and helped them receive mental health and medical services in a more timely manner. The Sheriff's Office continues to support the New Journey project although the Federal funding ended, which reduced the intensity of program services to these moms. New Journey continues to offer: therapeutic support groups – pre and post release, service coordination along with mentoring and housing supports to mothers and their children exiting the Monroe County Correctional Facility. JPC staff have gathered preliminary figures evaluating the recidivism rate (re-incarceration in jail or prison) for the current New Journey clients. Out of 23 currently enrolled clients, 7 clients have returned to the county jails. The recidivism rate is 30% for New Journey clients. It can run as high as 40% or more for this population. Several clients have made life changing decisions and have accumulated extensive clean time, live in safe and affordable housing and have reunited with their children and extended family. Note: we look forward to the RIT evaluation of the USDOJ Women's Re-entry Project, which operated from January 2010 through April 30, 2012.

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JPC Vision

The Judicial Process Commission envisions a society with true justice and equality for all. We understand that in a just society, all institutions will be based on reconciliation and restoration, instead of retribution and violence.

Mission

The Judicial Process Commission is a grass roots non-profit organization that works to create a just, nonviolent community. We support the rights of all people affected by the criminal justice system and promote changes to that system that help them achieve their fullest potential. We do this by providing support services, educating the public and advocating for systemic change.

PROGRAMS

1) Ex-offenders Support Services (ESS) – Includes service coordination, wrap around services, legal services, rap sheet reviews, certificate of relief from disabilities/of good conduct, and mentoring.

Service Coordination – Staff and volunteers provide one on one support, coordinated referrals, employment services and advocacy for individuals coming out of the criminal justice system.

Wrap Around Services – JPC provides Wrap Around Services to low income, ex-offenders returning to the greater Rochester community that include bus transportation, used clothing, bedding, work boots, identifications, and 1st month's rent (women's New Journey project only).

Being part of JPC has meant the world to me! When no one believed in me, JPC did and they never gave up on me! I was accepted as a client before leaving Monroe County Jail to complete a sentence at Willard (NYS Correctional Facility) and JPC even came there to see me and give me support and encouragement. They provided me with a mentor who has been there for me from day one. JPC has helped me through so many difficult times in my life. I was sexually assaulted at a program that I was sentenced to and they not only gave me the support I needed, they advocated for me with Parole and family court. I had 10 years clean prior to my relapse in 2009. I now have almost 15 months clean again and I honestly don't think I would be here today without the support of my JPC family. I owe much of my success to them and I will never forget how they believed in me when I no longer believed in myself. Melita

Legal Action Project - This first of its kind collaborative effort in NYS began in 2005 with Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc. (LAWNY)-Monroe County Legal Assistance Center (MCLAC) and was designed to reduce and/or eliminate legal and illegal barriers that make it much more difficult for ex-offenders to rejoin the community and succeed in almost every important aspect of life. Major activities/services include:

RAP Sheets – JPC, working in collaboration with MCLAC, requested 662 New York State/Federal Rap Sheets for 572 individuals with criminal records from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services and FBI.

Certificates of Rehabilitation: Certificate of Relief from Disabilities and Certificate of Good Conduct - JPC service coordinators, MCLAC attorney and clients worked together to prepare materials for 165 applications for 51 individuals to apply to various courts for these certificates. These certificates remove automatic barriers to individuals' employment or licensure caused by a criminal conviction and serve as legal evidence of rehabilitation that assists individuals in gaining stable housing, employment, or licensure.

Job Discrimination Education and Referrals – This service ensures that New York State law and public policy designed to encourage employment of persons convicted of crimes is enforced. Staff researched RAP sheets, wrote letters to employers and referred cases to MCLAC for further advocacy and/or litigation. JPC and

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MCLAC staff gave monthly presentations to service provider staff regarding employment discrimination against ex-offenders and advocacy efforts.

Faith Community Adult Mentoring Project (FCAMP) - FCAMP assists individuals coming out of the criminal justice system by providing them with a trained mentor that serves as a guide and coach to support their successful return to the community. Our mentor champions, Dr. David Kotok, Rev. Lawrence Hargrave and former Rochester Mayor William Johnson continue opening doors to recruit new mentors and serve as mentors as well. 51 new mentors were trained in 2012. Mentors assist the mentees by identifying employment resources, housing, and job training opportunities that empower them to become productive citizens. Mentees have successfully been reconnected to their families, obtained employment and/or got enrolled in job training programs or MCC. We continued our bi-weekly Team Mentoring Group at Monroe Correctional Facility led by mentors John Mourning and John Wyche who facilitated discussions on: Communication Skills, Healthy Relationships and successful transitional plans, etc.

2) Public Policy Group. Members meet periodically to develop strategies, fact sheets and reports to reduce barriers to reentry and to advocate for more reentry resources for prisoners returning to Monroe County. This is a racially diverse group that includes parolees and mentors, the Monroe County Sheriff's Department, and citizens interested in social justice and reentry issues. In December 2012, they released the "Survey Reveals the Barriers to Ex-offender Reentry" report.

3) Jail-Prison Correspondence Project. Two MCC interns responded to more than 189 pieces of mail in 2012 from local jail inmates, state prisoners, and prisoners from facilities around the United States. These include complaints of abuse, discrimination, inadequate health care, reentry and legal needs.

4) Justicia – Our electronic bi-monthly publication is distributed six times a year to 440 individuals/organizations. Volunteer Ana Liss edits the newsletter. It contains articles and reports on re-entry, the death penalty, prison conditions, restorative justice, current JPC issues and events as well as interviews/profiles of our staff and volunteers. This is a free publication and the only one of its kind in the region. The Editor set up new Facebook and Twitter accounts for JPC, which are growing in audience. The accounts were particularly useful when JPC participated in the United Way Foundation's ROC the Day fundraising initiative October 2012.

JPC Client Service Statistics – 2012

Category (Tracking all clients with limited staff is not possible.)	2012
Unique Individuals Served: (In person (1018) and jail mail (189))	1207
# In-person clients by age: 15-29 (218) 30-49 (514) 50+ (308)	
Unknown (446)	
Female: 350 (34%) Male: 668 (66%)	
Walk-Ins (Clients who registered at reception each day: not all are entered into db as some are given information and/or referred to other providers.)	2,500+
# Rap sheets applied for 572 individuals	662
# Rap sheets: received/reviewed (In cooperation with MCLAC)	574/370
# Certificate of relief or Certificate of good conduct for 51 individuals: applied for/approved	165/86
# Identifications obtained for 144 individuals	194
# Working (for those we could track)	72
# In support group (for those we could track)	258
# Parole/probation (underreported: self-disclosed) (County Prob: 443) (State: 499) (Federal: 76)	1018
#Mentors trained (Some return to faith communities to start their own program.)	51
#Jail-prison correspondence received	189

29 Community Partners – 2012

Action for a Better Community	New York State Division of Parole
Baden Street Settlement House	Rochester AmeriCorps
Bethany House	Rochester Correctional Facility (NYS Work Release Facility)
Catholic Family Center: Restart, Freedom House	Rochester Friends Meeting Rochester Institute of Technology, Dept. of Criminal Justice
Foodlink	RochesterWorks!
Coffee Connection	Safer Monroe Area Reentry Team (SMART)
Healthy Sisters Soup & Bean Works	Serenity House
Huther-Doyle	Shelter Plus Program, Rochester Housing Authority
Jennifer House, Spiritus Christi	Sojourner House, Pathstone
Mica-Net, Rochester General Health System	United States Probation and Pre-trial Services
Monroe Cnty Correctional Facility, Drug & Alcohol Treatment Program	Unity Health Services-Daisy Marquis Jones Women's Residence
Monroe County Department of Human Services-Work Experience Program (WEP) & Shelter Plus Program	The Women's Initiative Supporting Health – Transitions Clinic, University of Rochester and Strong Memorial Hospital
Monroe Cnty Legal Assistance Center, Reentry Project	Working Women's Wardrobe, Volunteers of America
Monroe Community College	
Monroe County Reentry Task Force	
Monroe Cnty Prob. & Community Corrections Dept.	

2012 Key Organization Funders/ In-kind Support

Key Organization Funders

Adult Career and Continuing Education Services-Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR) (agreement)
Carmelite Monastery
Central Missionary Guild, Downtown United Presbyterian Church
Church of the Assumption
Lake Avenue Baptist
Marie C. & Joseph C. Wilson Foundation
Mt. Rise United Church of Christ
New York Supports Opportunities for Accessing Recovery Services (NY SOARS) (contractual)
Presbytery of Genesee Valley-Triple Play Grant,
Presbytery of Genesee Valley-Presbyterian Women Fund,
and Webster Presbyterian Church

Rochester Area Community Foundation: Civic Engagement, Rochester Women's Giving Circle, & Women & Girls Project
Rochester Society of Friends
Spiritus Christi
St. Louis and St. Charles Borromeo Roman Catholic Parishes
United Church of Christ, Genesee Valley Association
US Department of Justice, Second Chance Act

In-kind Support

Monroe County Legal Assistance Center (In-kind legal staff)

Angie was a prostitute with a serious drug habit and children who live with other family members. She has numerous arrests and incarcerations. She has a history of being sexually abused from childhood and has no work history. When she enrolled in JPC's women's program via a jail referral, she had been a homeless prostitute, living with clients, from couch to couch. JPC enrolled her in a therapeutic jail program, assigned her a JPC mentor, and 1 on 1 counseling and developed a service plan. Upon release, she continued with our therapeutic support group. We provided her security deposit for an apartment. She was entered into drug/alcohol treatment programs and is clean and sober. She has also been supported by home visits from JPC staff and other providers. JPC assisted her with reuniting with her whole family including her children; though they do not live with her. She is no longer working as a prostitute and has goals to go to college.

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Excerpts from The Voices of Re-Entry Project Report

It is our hope that this *Voices of Re-Entry Project Report* will shed further light on the goals and struggles of those with criminal histories to help human service agencies provide more effective services and to help our community make better policies with regards to ex-offenders. We encourage all readers to challenge their opinions about what it means to carry the burden of a past mistake. Below are excerpts from the report. **To read the full report or for further information, please go to www.rocjpc.org.**

The Survey. The Report is based on a survey of 80 JPC ex-offender clients (average age 42 years old, ranging from 18 to 64 years old) in the spring/summer of 2012. It was developed by developed by JPC's AmeriCorps worker, Jamie Dougherty with support from JPC's Public Policy Committee to identify what needs ex-offenders had when returning from incarceration, the barriers they faced when trying to achieve their goals of establishing productive, law-abiding lives; and to assess their satisfaction with local supportive services they have received.

6,025 women and men returned to Monroe County from incarceration in 2011. Tens of thousands more in our community have been convicted of a crime in the past. Our survey of 80 local ex-offenders revealed that repercussions of having a criminal record, dictated by both law and social bias, last a lifetime.

Pressing Concerns. Their most pressing concerns when released from incarceration were finding employment and housing, followed by obtaining health care and identification. A staggering 59% of respondents were unemployed but able to work, and looking for work. Only 25% have been employed full-time at some point since their last release and 16% part-time. The unemployment rate for the general Rochester area population is 8.7% (Feb 2013). (Note: Unemployment in 2007–11 was highest among African Americans in our region at 16%, compared to 13% among Hispanics.) 80% qualified as homeless when released (18% in shelters, 62% staying with friends or family). 56% of respondents needed to get identification after release, 57% of who couldn't afford the ID fee. 46% needed to establish health insurance after release, with 7.1% needing emergency care.

Service Satisfaction. On a scale of 1 (very dissatisfied), 3 (neutral) and 5 (very satisfied) no service ranked above 3.88. Respondents were most *dissatisfied* with probation/parole and employment and housing services. People were the most *satisfied* with social supports (friends, family, and community groups), identification services, and addiction treatment services that help increase employability.

Public Behavior/Policies. By law, employers can discriminate based on criminal history only in limited cases (see NY Criminal Law Article 23-A), but many employers simply don't consider applicants with any criminal record, despite the law. Some policies limit or bar employment and licensure for anyone with any criminal record in health care, notary, hair and beauty fields, childcare, teaching, security, social work, and more, until the person is granted a court-issued certificate that verifies rehabilitation, which can take years. Many other opportunities are limited by public policy for some ex-offenders, like public housing eligibility, eligibility for student loans, on-campus housing at colleges, and sometimes voting (for those currently on parole). A criminal record in New York State must be carried for life. Criminal convictions cannot be expunged or sealed, no matter how minor or old the crime may be.

Frustrating self-perpetuating cycles in societal institutions often thwart ex-offenders' goals. In the absence of sufficient reentry support services, many people stay on public assistance, give up on their goals, or resort back to crime with no other real options. Such cycles trap many ex-offenders in perpetual, chronic unemployability and extreme poverty.

About Ex-offenders. The criminal justice system disproportionately affects African-Americans (68% of our respondents). Nearly half of the respondents were incarcerated as a direct result of chemical dependency, and one-third has been diagnosed with a mental illness (1/3 of whom received counseling during incarceration). 3 of 4 respondents were last incarcerated for non-violent, non-sexual crimes.

It requires the efforts of the *whole community* to successfully re-integrate ex-offenders and give individuals a real chance to “do the right thing.” The Voices of Re-Entry Project Committee at JPC offers these survey results to the community so that human service agencies, policy-makers, and community members will better understand the needs and reality faced by ex-offenders. In the near future, we will publish a series of results, including suggestions for simple but powerful changes to policies that could help solve many of these issues. Understanding the barriers that prevent ex-offenders from successful community re-integration and working to reduce those barriers will ultimately improve individual lives, help ensure that those able to work can be considered for employment, reduce dependency on public assistance, and reduce crime in our community.

Voices of Re-Entry Project Committee: Sue Porter, JPC Executive Director; Jamie Dougherty, Rochester AmeriCorps, JPC Service Coordinator and report author; CaTyra Pollard, Voices Project Committee Facilitator; Darnell Smith, Rochester AmeriCorps, JPC Service Coordinator; Fred Schaeffer, Ex-officio Member, former JPC Chairperson; Robert Lovett, JPC Student Intern, Monroe Community College; and John Busby, Esq., Re-entry Project, Monroe County Legal Assistance Center.

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Current Board & Advisory Board Members - 2103

Gregory Bouie

Willow Group, LTD, Batavia
Marketing and Client Service

John C. Busby, Esq.

Staff Attorney, MCLAC

Helen Cheves

Adjunct Faculty, Dept. of
Communication, SUNY
Brockport Owner
II Steps Ahead, President

Linda Harrell Davis, Owner
Me Time Massage Wellness

Dan Iler, Social Media

Ana Liss, Editor, *Justicia*,
Greater Rochester Enterprise

Isabel Morrison, *Secretary*
Public Policy Group, Chair
Personnel Committee, Retired
Social Justice Coord.

Charles Rance, Retired US
Army, Postal Worker

Barbara Rockell, PhD.
Associate Prof. Sociology,
St. John Fisher College

Suzanne Schnittman, PhD.
President of the Board

Advisory Board

Luke Harned, Esq.
County of Monroe
Public Defenders Ofc

John M. Klofas, Ph.D.
Director, Center for Public
Safety Initiatives Professor,
Dept. of Criminal Justice,

Rochester Institute of
Technology

Robert Russell, Jr.

Executive Director, Cancer
Action

Fred Schaeffer, *President*
Emeritus,

Public Policy Group, Mentor
Retired Senior Analyst, Eastman
Kodak

Current Staff, April, 2013

JPC staff are paid and volunteer and come to us through a variety of avenues.

Staff

Susan K. Porter

Executive Director

Kamilah Richardson

Sr. Service Coordinator

Valerie White-Whittick

Mentor Coordinator

Cynthia Consaul, LCSW,

Therapeutic Group
Facilitator

Jeanette Gartland

Creighton, LMSW,
CASAC, Therapeutic Group
Facilitator

Rochester AmeriCorps

Darnell Smith

Jamie Dougherty
Service Coordinators

Volunteer/In-kind Staff

Ed Johnson

Financial Assistant

Jane Coons

Financial Assistant

Sharon Loving, Mentor

Coordinator Assistant

Ti'Ocea B. Hagins Prison

Advocacy &
Correspondence

Rev. Robert Lovett,

Monday Night Support
Group Assistant

Monroe County Legal Assistance Center

John Busby, Esq.

Legal Staff

Consultant

MacClurg Vivian

Freelance Grantwriter

Monroe Community

College

Elizabeth Castle

& Neency Myers

Administrative Support

SUNY Brockport

Abby White, Service

Coordinator Asst.

Monroe County Work

Experience Program
(WEP)

Will Sanders, Building

Superintendent

Carmen Zayas

Administrative Support

Current Mentors (42) April 2013

Linda Martin
Kamilah Richardson
Jennifer Allison
Maria Barnes
Loret Steinberg
Kerry Luddy
Pastor Robert Lovett
Elaine Smith
Carrion
Time Hinton
Debbie Pacheo
Shatara Jones
Melinda Colon
Carlos Santos
Bill Washington

Michael Schnittman
Brittany Sibley
Cynthia Morse
Jerry Carter
Dough Connaway
James Greco
Todd Klafehen
Joellen Kuhl
Deborah Davis
Diane Dinkins-
Lourette
Josephine
Lansiquoit
Veronica Sanders
Deeann Magliocco

Tony Liccone
John Mourning
May Clarke
Richard Lourette
Jeanette Creighton
Cynthia Consual
John Wyche
Sonia Rodriguez
William Johnson
former Mayor
Dorothy Chung
Don Webster
Aaron Jackson
Douglas Mabon
Lissette Dernier

Suzanne Schnittman
Lawrence Hargrave
Bill Camp
Randy Scott
Jane Duda
Sharon Barber
Eric Hillsman
Paul Clocksin
Ron Schumaker
Carl Malady
Tahlisa Mason
Robert Picco
Melissa Horton
Michelle Boyd
Donna Maier

Tarlisha Vuhart
David Markham
David Bartalo
David Kotok
Joseph Louis
Karen Lewis
Ramona Huntley
Edmond Huntley
Linda Davis
Michael Dix
Maria Casapini
Norgie Wilder
Nikita William